

Abstract of the Invention

Method and Device for Streaming a Media File Over a Distributed Information System

A method, device, and program product are provided for streaming a media file
5 over a distributed information system to a client computer running a browser application.
First, a server receives a request for a particular media file from the client computer.
Then, the server dynamically generates a metafile, whereby said metafile contains
information about the identification, location and format of the media file, and returns it
back to the client computer. Advantageously, the server intercepts a download request
10 for the actual media file and reinterprets the download request in a request for receiving a
corresponding metafile. Thus, instead of returning the requested media file, a metafile is
returned that allows immediate streaming of the requested media file without the need of
waiting for the download to be finished.